



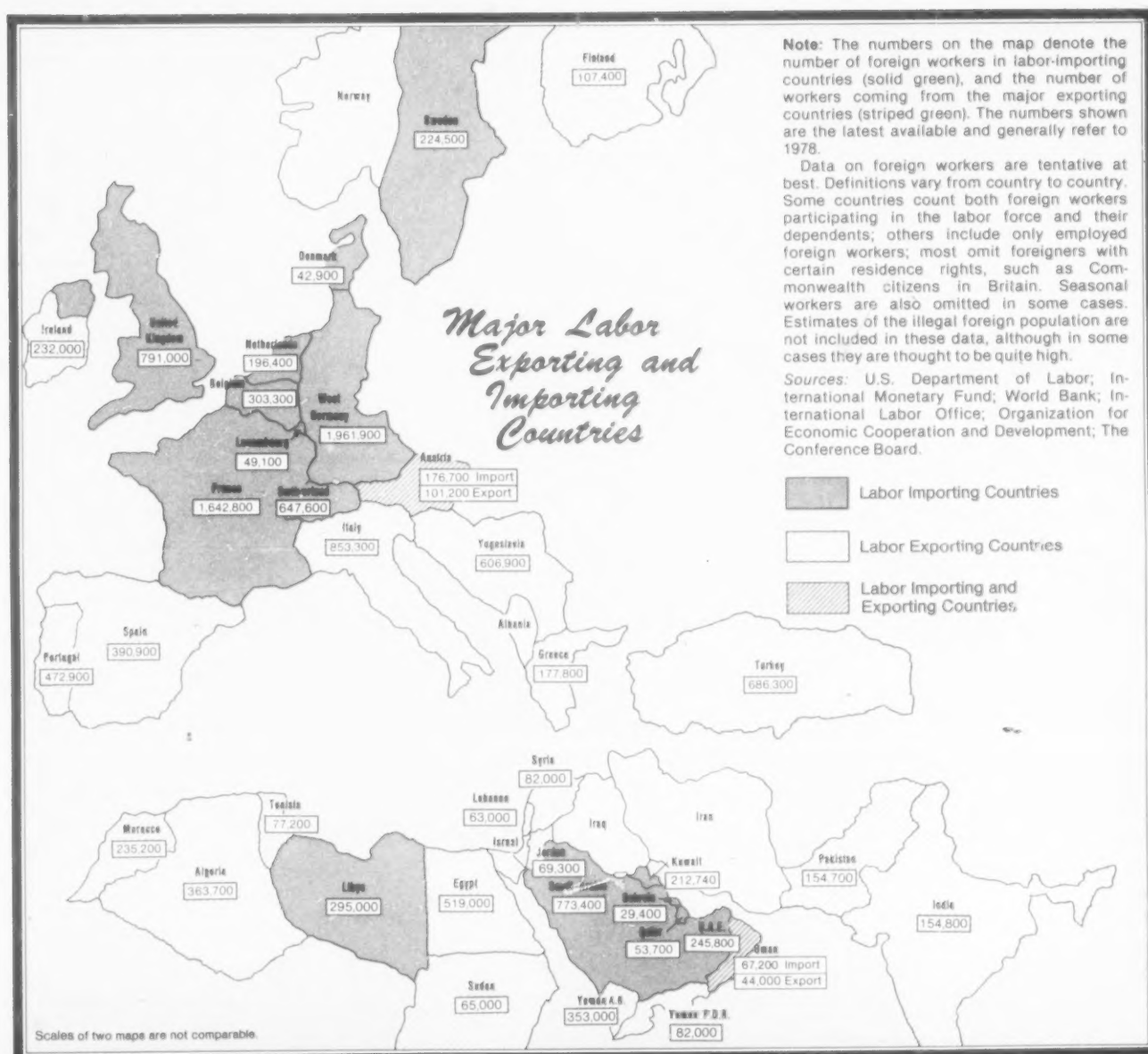
International Labor Migration

Economic Road Maps

Nos. 1890 - 1891

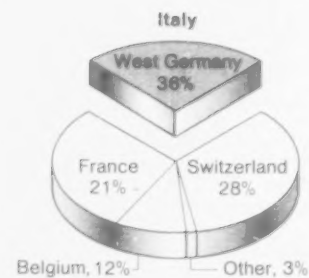
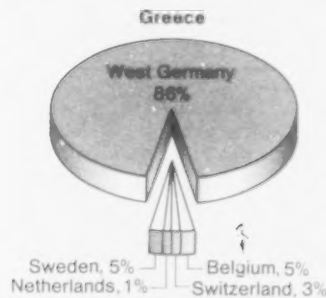
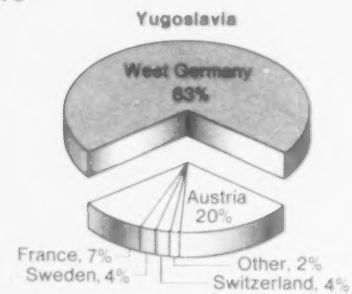
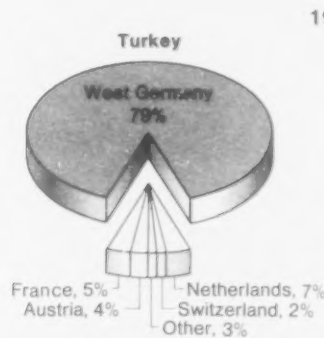
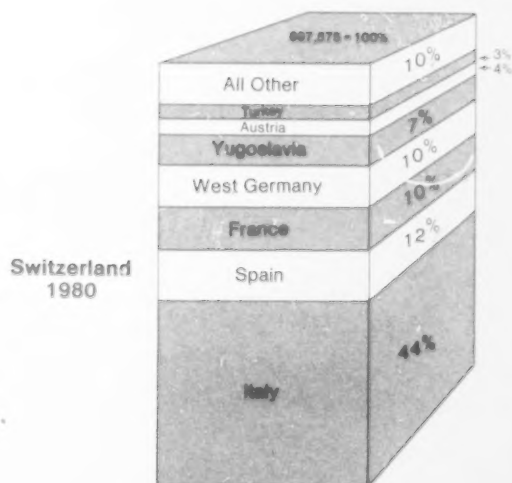
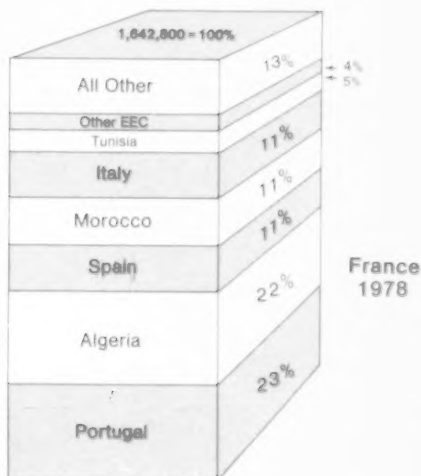
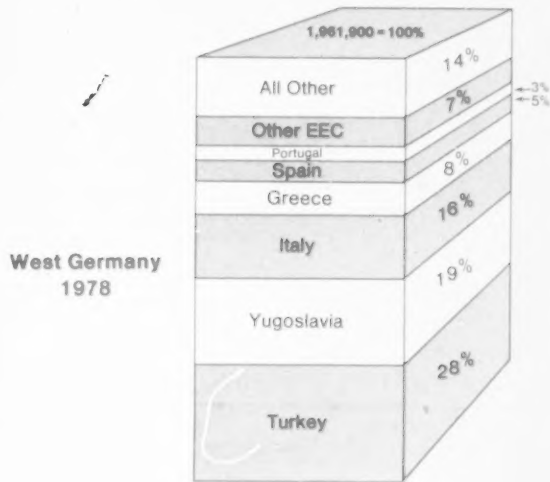
November, 1980

The rapid redevelopment of Western European economies following the destruction of World War II resulted in one of the most massive international labor migrations in history. Millions of workers—mostly from the underdeveloped countries of Southern Europe and North Africa—flowed into eight northern European countries. The total number of foreign workers admitted to Western Europe for temporary employment since the end of World War II has been estimated at 30 million. More recently, the oil-producing Middle Eastern countries have also witnessed a huge inflow of migrant labor. The phenomenon is also known in the United States, but this country is unable to count its foreign workers since so many of them are "undocumented" and here illegally; the number is estimated at anywhere between 2 and 12 million.

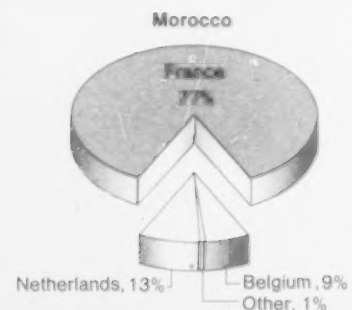
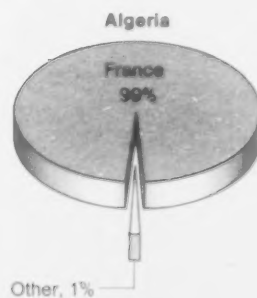
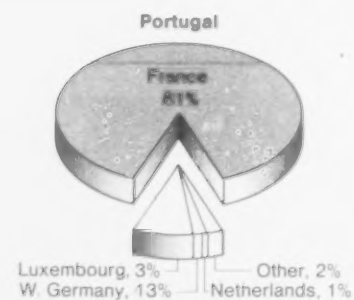
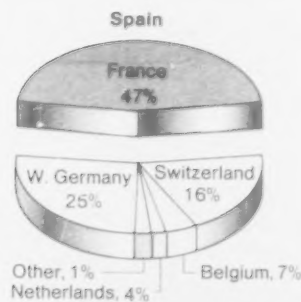


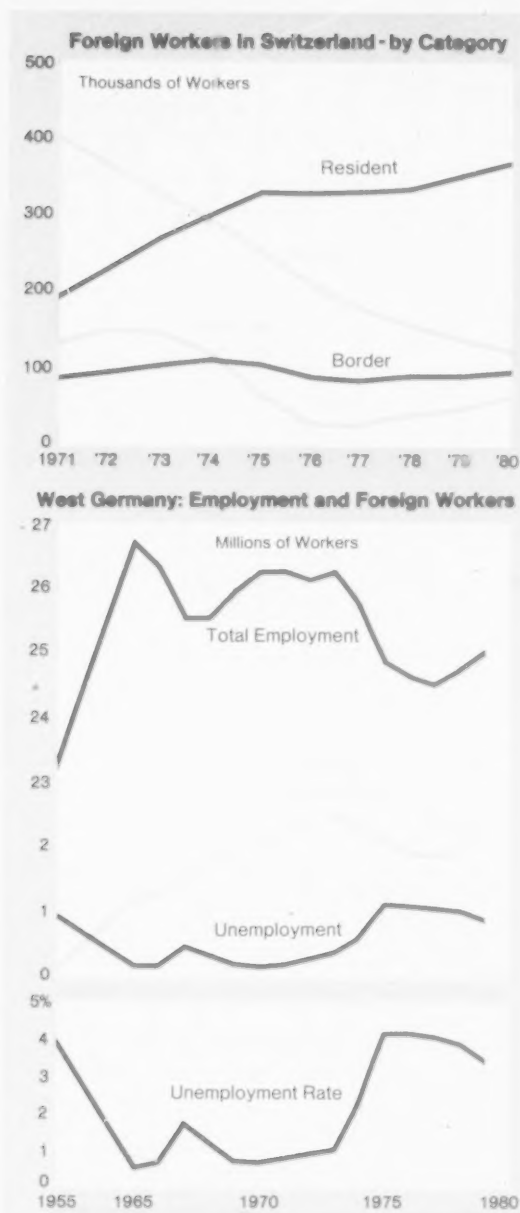
Migrant Workers in Europe

Origins of Migrant Workers in Turkey
Main Receiving Countries



"Guestworker" programs in Western Europe were originally set up to relieve temporary labor shortages by importing workers for a specified time period. As implied by the name, these workers were expected to depart upon the expiration of their contracts, usually after one or two years, as other workers took their places. Their numbers were to be determined by the economic requirements of the host country. The guestworker programs flourished until the early 1970's. By 1973, there were some 6.7 million guestworkers in Europe (excluding those in the United Kingdom). Recruitment then came to a sudden halt, reflecting the onset of the energy crisis and the threat of a recession. An awareness had also emerged in the





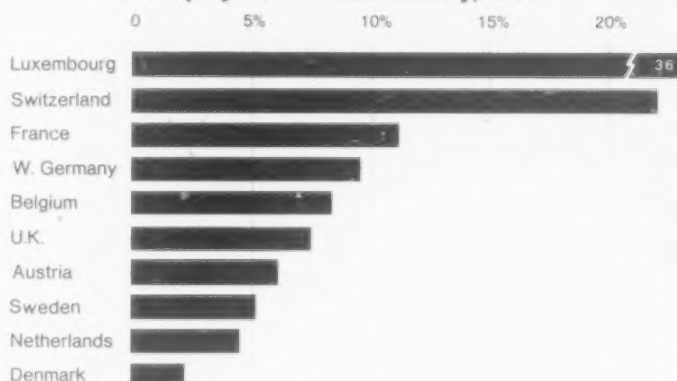
receiving countries of the social and political problems associated with having a vast number of foreign workers present. Germany was the first to halt such immigration, followed by France and Switzerland. As a result, the number of foreign workers in Western Europe declined somewhat, but the average length of stay of those remaining increased—many chose to stay for fear of not being readmitted if they left. Unemployed foreigners also preferred in many cases to remain in the host country and avail themselves of unemployment benefits, rather than return home to face unemployment or low-paying jobs. The number of foreign workers in host countries declined from 6½ million in 1974 to around 5 million in 1978, but at the same time total foreign population rose from 10¼ million to an estimated 12 million.

Certain patterns are clearly established in the international labor flow. Thus, the Irish work almost

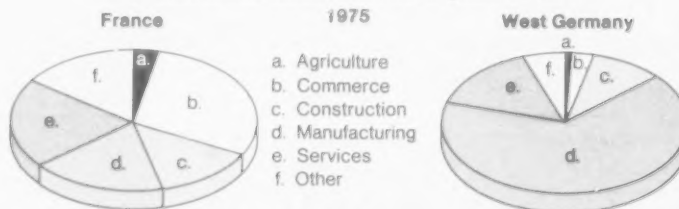
Workers Abroad as Percent of Total Employment in Country of Origin



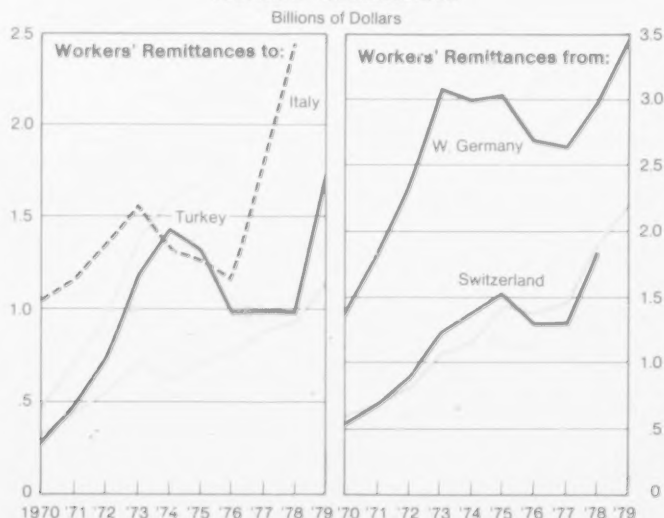
Foreign Workers as Percent of Total Employment in Host Country, 1977



Sectoral Distribution of Immigrant Labor

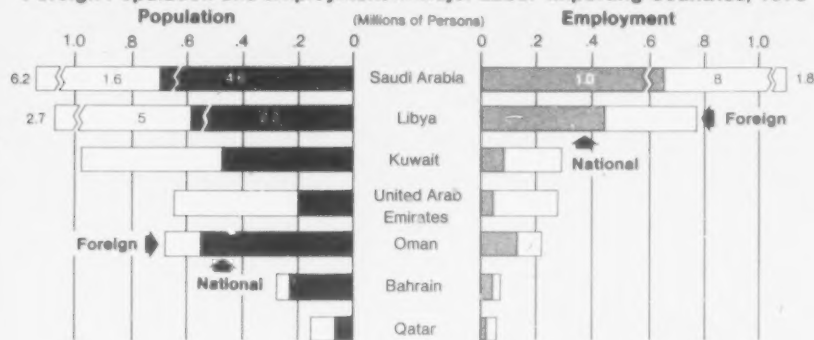


Workers' Remittances



Labor Migration in Arab Countries

Foreign Population and Employment in Major Labor Importing Countries, 1975



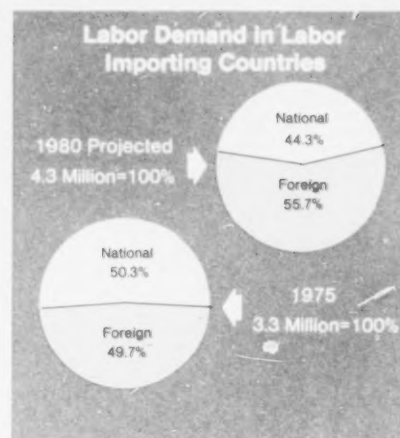
exclusively in Britain; the Finns go to Sweden; and the Austrians to Germany and Switzerland. The Italians, as members of the Common Market, are guaranteed free labor movement within the Community and are more widely spread. France employs most of the Portuguese, Moroccans, Algerians and half of the Spaniards; while most of the migrants from Turkey, Yugoslavia and Greece go to Germany.

The original premise was that foreign workers were a reserve labor force to be employed in booms and laid off or sent home in slowdowns. However, the host countries are increasingly realizing that most foreigners are there to stay, and that ways must be found to assimilate and integrate them.

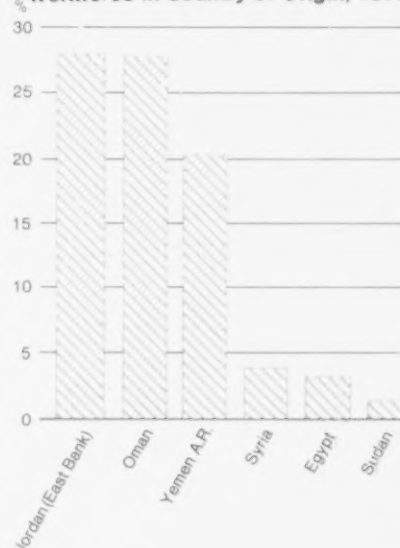
From the standpoint of the sending countries, the large-scale migration has had obvious advantages: It has relieved chronic unemployment, provided training and experience for the work force, and also contributed to improving the sending countries' international payments balances. The benefits are qualified, however. The number and quality of the workers leaving home has almost always been determined by host-country needs—not those of the sending countries—and the former tend to pick the better educated workers. Moreover, when the receiving countries slip into recession, workers' remittances to the exporting countries decline just at a time when they are most needed. Turkey's receipts of workers' remittances dropped from \$1.5 billion in 1974 to about \$900 million by 1977, or 60 percent.

The oil-rich Middle Eastern countries, lacking unskilled workers as well as skilled technical and managerial personnel, are the newest labor importers. The ambitious development programs, fueled by a wealth of petrodollars, have poured millions of migrants into these countries to the point where foreign workers outnumber the local work force in some cases. The fear of social and political upheavals and the renewed fervor of Islam have brought about some tightening of work permits for foreign workers, and a crackdown on illegal immigrants, but demand is expected to remain at high levels.

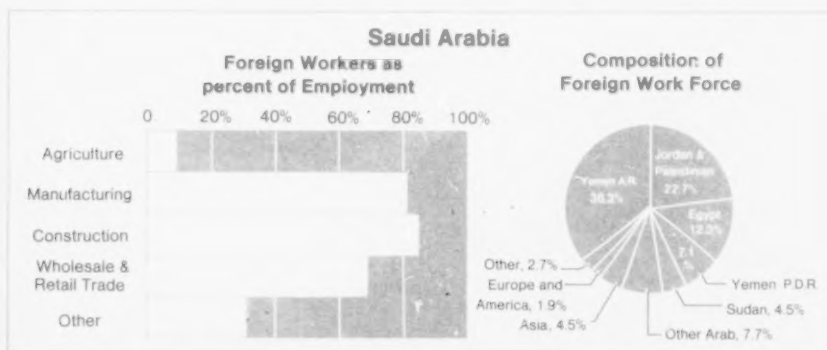
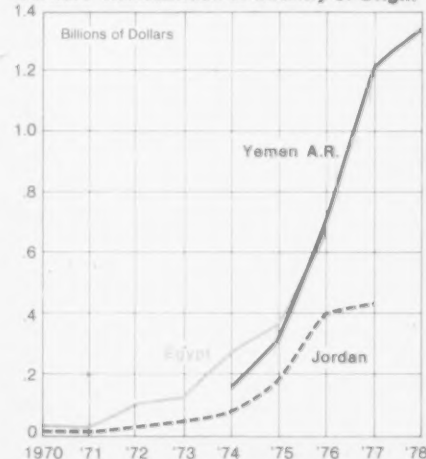
Eva Culen



Workers Abroad as Percent of Workforce in Country of Origin, 1975



Workers' Remittances to Country of Origin



ECONOMIC ROAD MAPS

Eva Culen, Editor

Chuck N. Tow, Lead Chartist

Prepared in The Business Conditions Analysis Department—Lora S. Collins, Director
Prices for Quantities of this chart will be supplied on request to Information Service.

THE CONFERENCE BOARD IN CANADA

25 McArthur Road
Ottawa, Ontario, K1L 6R3, Canada

Published by
THE CONFERENCE BOARD

845 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022

THE CONFERENCE BOARD IN EUROPE

Avenue Louise, 326 - Bte 48
B-1050 Brussels, Belgium